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Turks and Caicos Islands

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 21 December 2012. Further details are contained in previous working papers posted on the United Nations website www.un.org/en/decolonization/workingpapers.shtml.

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The Territory at a glance

Territory: The Turks and Caicos Islands is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Representative of administering Power: Governor Damian Roderic "Ric" Todd (September 2011).

Geography: The Territory comprises 40 islands and cays, and lies 145 km north of Haiti and the Dominican Republic and 925 km south-east of Miami, Florida, United States of America. Six islands are permanently inhabited: Grand Turk, where the capital is located; Providenciales, the business and tourist centre with the great majority of the population; North, Middle and South Caicos; and Salt Cay.

Land area: 948.2 km².

Exclusive economic zone: 154,068 km².[a]

Population: 31,458 (2012 census), comprising 42.5 per cent citizens or "belongers" and 57.5 per cent of "non-belongers" from the region, North America and Europe.

Language: English.

Capital: Cockburn Town.

Head of territorial Government: Dr. Rufus Ewing (November 2012).

Main political parties: Progressive National Party, People's Democratic Movement.

Elections: Last: 9 November 2012; next: 2016.

Legislature: House of Assembly.

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: $16,405 (2011 estimate).

Economy: Tourism, financial services, construction.

Unemployment rate: 8.3 per cent (2011 estimate).

Monetary unit: United States dollar.

Brief history: The first inhabitants of the islands were the Arawaken-speaking Taino people. In 1799, they were annexed by Britain as part of the Bahamas and subsequently Jamaica. They became a separate colony of the United Kingdom in 1962, when Jamaica achieved independence, although there were close constitutional ties with the Bahamas. When the Bahamas later became independent, in 1973, the Turks and Caicos Islands were given a Governor to replace their Administrator.

[a] EEZ data from "Sea Around Us" Project, a collaboration between the University of British Columbia and the Pew Environment Group. Available from www.seaaroundus.org.

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. Under the 2006 Constitution negotiated between the Territory and the United Kingdom, the Turks and Caicos Islands operated until the suspension of the Constitution in August 2009 (see below) on the basis of a ministerial system of Government. The Governor appointed by the British Crown was responsible for external affairs, defence, internal security, including the police force, and some public service matters. The legislature consisted of the British Crown and a House of Assembly, comprising a Speaker, 15 elected members, 4 appointed members and the Attorney General. Ten members are elected to represent one electoral district each, and the remaining five by territory-wide vote.

2. In the light of the accumulation of evidence fortified by the findings of a commission of inquiry, which identified a high probability of systemic corruption in the government and the legislature and among public officers in the Territory, on 14 August 2009 the United Kingdom brought into force legislation that, inter alia, suspended parts of the 2006 Constitution, removing the ministerial government and the House of Assembly.

3. Between August 2009 and November 2012, the Governor worked under the interim constitutional arrangements with an advisory council to advise him on policy and a consultative forum to allow the people's voice to be heard. Each was constituted by Islanders and its members were appointed by the Governor. This arrangement was referred to as the "interim Government" and "interim administration" or as "direct rule". (See A/AC.109/2010/10, A/AC.109/2011/10 and A/AC.109/2012/9.) According to the administering Power, during the three years of the interim administration, led by the Governor and supported by the United Kingdom Government, a wide-ranging reform programme was implemented, including setting public finances on the road to recovery, establishing a robust framework for good governance, strengthening the public service, and bringing into force a new constitution.

4. The 2011 Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order, which came into force on 15 October 2012, sets out fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual and provisions for their enforcement. It provides for a Governor as the Head of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, for a House of Assembly composed of elected and appointed members and the Attorney General, for a Cabinet and for ministers appointed from among the elected or appointed members of the House. It also provides for the judiciary, the public service and a number of institutions protecting good governance, notably an Integrity Commission, a Human Rights Commission, an Auditor General and a Director of Public Prosecutions. Provision is also made regarding Crown land and for public financial management, including the independent audit of public accounts. Under the 2011 Constitution Order, the British Crown reserves the power, with the advice and consent of the Privy Council, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory.

5. According to media reports in 2012, controversy persisted among Islanders, with some arguing that the text of the new Constitution was drafted and made by the United Kingdom with only suggestions from unelected individuals hailing from the Territory and was not put to a vote or referendum.

6. According to the administering Power, on 9 November 2012, elections were held within the prescribed 30-day limit from the day of the 2011 Constitution Order

coming into force. A new electoral register of electors was compiled on the basis of a registration exercise for all Islanders. An electoral boundaries commission defined 10 new electoral districts with broadly similar numbers of electors. Practical preparations were made for elections at 17 polling stations across the Territory's main islands. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association organized an observer mission with participation from Gibraltar, countries from the Caribbean region and the United Kingdom. There was an 84 per cent turnout of voters. The Progressive National Party (PNP), in office when the ministerial government was removed in 2009, won 8 seats and the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) won 7 seats. Dr. Rufus Ewing, leader of the PNP, was sworn in as Premier on 13 November 2012. The Territory featured its first-ever female opposition leader, Sharlene Cartwright Robinson, head of the PDM. However, according to media reports, following petitions challenging the election results that led to an evenly split House, in February 2013 the Governor announced that a by-election would be held for the Cheshire Hill and Richmond Hill District on 22 March 2013.

7. The law of the Territory consists mainly of locally enacted statutes, along with some laws enacted in the United Kingdom and English common law and the rules of equity. The court system includes magistrates courts, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, with ultimate recourse to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. On the advice of a judicial service commission, the Governor appoints judges and magistrates. The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 provides for the granting of British citizenship to "British Overseas Territory citizens". In response to what he described in January 2013 "as unsupported and preposterous accusations on the Turks and Caicos Islands judicial and legal system", the Attorney General announced that consideration would be given to proceedings for contempt of court or scandalizing the judiciary. According to observers, charges included concerns with regard to fair trial processes, access to an impartial justice system, conduct of criminal prosecutions, and interviewing techniques (see also the crime and public safety section below).

8. Addressing the Special Committee in June 2012, a petitioner from the Turks and Caicos Forum called on the administering Power to provide an explanation of its "assault" on the human rights of the people of the Territory and of its "attempts to delay their progress towards self-determination", and compensation for the economic losses sustained under the interim administration (see A/AC.109/2012/SR.9). In October 2012, a petitioner addressing the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) stated that the United Nations trusteeship system should be reinstated to oversee the Territory. A second petitioner said, in support of the trusteeship proposal made by the previous speaker, that the United Kingdom was enforcing a "pernicious form of colonialism" under which it had failed to establish democratic checks on the power of the British Governor, had imposed unconstitutional control over Island finances that would continue even after the return of elected government and generally showed an utter disregard for democracy.

9. An assessment by Oxford Analytica late in 2012 noted that the Territory faced a number of challenges, including a slowly improving but still vulnerable economy; the forthcoming trials of those individuals accused of corruption; and a possible move towards independence, which the PNP would support.

II. Budget

10. According to the administering Power, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government remains committed to achieving a fiscal surplus in the financial year ending March 2013, in line with the approved 2012/13 budget. Significant challenges remain and continuing tight cost control will be required to deliver the budgeted revenue surplus. The 2012/13 budget statement comprised approximately $162 million for recurrent and $17.2 million for capital expenditures.

11. The territorial Government levies no taxes on corporate or personal income, capital gains or inheritance. Following various consultations amid growing controversy, in 2012 the Acting Governor signed into law the Turks and Caicos Islands Value-Added Tax (VAT) Bill to take effect on 1 April 2013 as an 11 per cent levy, with a number of exemptions, including fruit, vegetables, fresh meat and hurricane supplies. On 1 February 2013, the House of Assembly repealed the controversial VAT legislation by a vote of 16 in support and 2 against.

12. According to the administering Power, the territorial Government continues to seek treaty partners for tax information exchange agreements. As previously reported, phase 1 of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Peer Review Process by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes was undertaken during 2011. The phase II assessment is scheduled to commence during 2013.

III. Economic conditions

A. General

13. The main sectors of the economy are tourism and financial services. According to an Economist Intelligence Unit estimate, the Territory's 2012 gross domestic product (GDP) was about $792.8 million. According to information provided by the administering Power, tourism is the Territory's top industry, where foreign investors, mainly from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States play a significant role.

B. Tourism

14. In 2011 visitor arrivals to the Islands increased by 12.3 per cent over the previous year, totalling 1,009,720. The arrivals for stay-over visitors saw an increase of 20 per cent, totalling approximately 354,200 visitors. There were approximately 655,500 cruise arrivals, a 6 per cent increase. The destination continues to draw tourists mainly from the United States and Canada. The Tourist Board expects the Canadian market to grow in 2012 as the result of the addition of a new in-season direct flight from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

15. As previously reported, the Tourist Board embarked in 2011 on a strategy to encourage visits to the Territory's various islands, including through tours on North and Middle Caicos, and local flights to Grand Turk and Salt Cay. In 2011, a new private airline was licensed to operate in the Territory. The vast majority of tourists continue to be accommodated at resorts on Providenciales.

C. Financial services

16. Financial services, including company registration, trust business and insurance, are a source of external revenue. According to the United Kingdom, the financial services sector is centred on the United States automobile industry reinsurance.

17. There are seven commercial banks in the Territory, three of which are Canadian, namely, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Scotiabank and Royal Bank. The licensing, supervision and development of the financial services in the Territory is entrusted to the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission, which also provides a centralized service for registering companies, partnerships, trademarks and patents in the Territory. The Turks and Caicos Islands is a jurisdiction where foreign corporations pay licence fees to operate.

D. Agriculture and fisheries

18. In 2012, agriculture and fishing contributed approximately 1 per cent of the Territory's GDP. Agricultural production is limited by the lack of freshwater and consists mainly of the growing of vegetables and citrus fruits on the Caicos Islands. According to the administering Power, there are 15 full-time and 80 part-time farmers in the Territory. Pig and chicken farming is increasing. Two large pig farms in active production are indigenously owned operations.

19. Fishing is the Territory's main productive primary sector. Caribbean spiny lobster and queen conch are the primary marine exports. Other marine products, such as fin fish, are fished primarily for subsistence and the local restaurant trade.

E. Communications and construction

20. According to an assessment provided by the administering Power, transport and communications facilities are of fairly good quality. The road network covers about 120 km, with 24 km of paved roads on Grand Turk, Providenciales and the Caicos Islands.

21. The Turks and Caicos Islands has three international airports: the main one on Providenciales, and smaller ones on Grand Turk and South Caicos. There are also landing strips on Salt Cay, Pine Cay, Parrot Cay, Middle Caicos and North Caicos. Flights are available to a number of United States and Canadian cities, and London. Air Turks and Caicos operates services to the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. The 2011 extension of the runway of the Providenciales international airport was the first phase of a major airport expansion project designed to promote economic development.

22. The main commercial port of South Dock is situated on Providenciales. Grand Turk also has a commercial port, and North Caicos has a deep-water port.

23. Three telecommunications companies provide domestic and international telephone services in the Territory. There are a handful of cable television channels on Grand Turk, over two dozen channels on Providenciales, and six radio stations. There are no daily newspapers. A number of weekly papers also maintain a Web presence.

IV. Social conditions

A. General

24. The August 2012 preliminary census report issued by the Department of Economics Planning and Statistics noted that of the total population of 31,458, 16,037 were male and 15,421 were female. Approximately 73.7 per cent of the total population were over 18 years of age.

25. According to the administering Power, a number of families are considered to be living in poverty. An ongoing country poverty assessment is expected to help establish priorities to assist the poor.

26. The Turks and Caicos Islands National Insurance Board, a statutory body of the territorial Government, is the sole provider of social insurance benefits to persons who are gainfully employed within the Turks and Caicos Islands between the ages of 16 and 65 years.

B. Labour and immigration

27. The Territory's main employer is the public sector which, according to the administering Power, employs nearly one fifth of the working population. Other main areas of employment include tourism, construction and business services.

28. In recent years the unemployment level has fluctuated and possibly increased. In the construction sector, it continued to be a major challenge in 2012 due to the effects of the global economic crisis. Unemployment rates vary among the main islands with the more rural ones more adversely affected. In 2012, the public sector conducted a "right sizing" exercise as a part of a major public sector reform, which drastically reduced the number of government employees through a voluntary severance scheme.

29. Preliminary data from the 2012 census indicates that the non-belonger population increased. This was attributed to foreign workers employed in the Territory hailing from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean region. In recent times, an increase in the number of Filipino, European and American employees coming into the Islands was also noted.

30. According to the administering Power, a major public consultation exercise was conducted between November 2011 and February 2012 on the pathway to British Overseas Territory citizenship and Turks and Caicos Islander status. Participation was fairly high and the amendments to the Territory's immigration ordinance reflected the views of the majority. A robust, transparent and simplified system was put in place later that same year. Guidance and amendments to the ordinance have been published.

C. Education

31. Education in the Territory is free and compulsory for children from 4 to 16 years of age. There are 47 schools with a total enrolment of approximately 5,200 pupils covering from preschool up to tertiary education. Of these, 14 are Government-run,

10 are primary schools and 4 are high schools. Although there are more private than public schools, approximately 79 per cent of students are enrolled at public schools. The adult literacy rate is estimated at 98 per cent. The rate among immigrants is much lower.

32. As to higher education, there is a community college with branches on Grand Turk and Providenciales that provides two-year and four-year courses. Citizens from the Overseas Territories benefit from the home student fee rate at British universities. During 2011/2012, the Government reduced scholarship commitments to $2.6 million and streamlined the scholarship programme by ensuring that awards are granted only on merit to institutions within the Caribbean and the United Kingdom.

D. Public health

33. According to the administering Power, medical facilities in the Turks and Caicos Islands have recently improved with the opening of new hospital facilities on Providenciales and Grand Turk, both operated by Interhealth Canada. They provide a range of services, including diagnostic services, primary care and outpatient specialty clinics, emergency services and inpatient care. Serious cases are still referred overseas, usually to Miami or Nassau. In 2012, a National Strategic Health Plan was being elaborated by the Ministry of Health and Human Services. It is expected to involve public consultation with all major stakeholders in 2013.

34. As previously reported, in 2010, in implementation of a National Health Insurance Plan, health care was extended to all legal residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and not solely to belongers. According to the administering Power, as a result of the implementation of the plan, all residents within the Territory are expected to contribute to health care at a rate of 6 per cent, split evenly between the employer and the employee. The plan is set up on the basis of equity, which requires all contributors to be treated fairly. All local and legal foreign workers registered under the plan receive the same level of care.

35. The United Kingdom Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council Communiqué of 5 December 2012, inter alia, expressed agreement between the United Kingdom and the Territories present, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, on the importance of health security and on achieving compliance with the requirements of the International Health Regulations, an international legal instrument binding on 194 countries, including all WHO member States, by June 2014. Furthermore, the participants agreed to identify and make use of all available sources of assistance, in particular from regional and global health organizations, such as the Pan-American Health Organization and United Nations agencies, to share best practices on health strategies and processes with special emphasis on treatment and care of non-communicable diseases, and to improve representation of the Territories and linkages with global and regional health bodies.

E. Crime and public safety

36. According to the administering Power, the crime rate in the territory remains low comprising mainly theft and burglary, but also some violent crime, including

armed robbery and sexual assault. In 2012, there was one murder compared to two in 2010 and four in 2011.

37. While the Territory is highly susceptible to the impact of drugs, firearms and illegal migrant trafficking, it benefits from being a member of Operation Bahamas, America and Turks and Caicos, a 1982 tripartite arrangement to combat drug trafficking. United States Coast Guard helicopters assigned to the Operation are positioned in Providenciales. In 2012, border surveillance of the Territory was strengthened with the completion of a new coastal radar station. In the second half of 2012, there have been four migrant sloop landings/interdictions. Authorities have noticed a change in the demographics of the migrants with an increasingly younger and more criminally minded population. Drug seizures within the Territory continue to remain low.

38. As previously reported, a Special Investigations and Prosecution Team was established following the 2009 Commission of Inquiry. According to the administering Power, a large criminal investigation resulted in 14 people (including a former Premier and cabinet ministers) being charged with serious criminal offences, including bribery, conspiracy to receive bribes, conspiracy to defraud the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, conceal or transfer the proceeds of criminal conduct, and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. In 2012, former Premier Michael Misick was arrested. Also, approximately 2,500 acres of Crown land have been recovered and various significant financial settlements received, for an amount of $19.5 million. The investigations and prosecutions would proceed independently of the elected Government, as it is for the courts to decide guilt or innocence.

39. In December 2012, the population of the administering Power's prison in Grand Turk stood at 101, with 25 on remand and 76 serving sentences, including 2 juveniles (1 convicted and 1 on remand). There is no special juvenile facility in the Territory.

40. According to the administering Power, the approach of the interim Government has been to work with international and regional technical assistance providers, such as the International Monetary Fund and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and with in-territory agencies, including the Financial Services Commission, to enhance their own systems to detect, investigate and prosecute money-laundering and other suspected abuses.

F. Human rights

41. As previously reported, in 2008, the Human Rights Commission Ordinance established the Human Rights Commission to help the Territory conform to international standards concerning various human rights obligations. According to the administering Power, work was done in 2012 to amend the Human Rights Commission Ordinance so as to strengthen the functions commensurate with its new role as one of the institutions for the protection of good governance as provided for in the 2011 Constitution Order.

42. Work on a national action plan on human rights was ongoing. A Human Rights Commission website and e-mail address were created in 2012, while various education efforts continued to raise awareness of human rights. Moreover, during the latter part of 2012, the Commission conducted a comprehensive review of local

laws to identify weaknesses in the legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in order to correct identified weaknesses in legislation.

43. The following major human rights conventions have been extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands: the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, the European Convention on Human Rights applies to the Turks and Caicos Islands and individuals have the right to bring cases to the European Court of Human Rights when no other remedy exists in the Territory. According to the administering Power, the right of individual petition under the European Convention on Human Rights has been extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands indefinitely.

44. According to the United Kingdom, the 2011 Constitution Order strengthens the fundamental rights chapter in the 2006 Constitution and adds some new rights. For instance, an Equality Ordinance was passed in 2012 which equalizes the age of consent, and clarifies the protections from discrimination set out in the Constitution. This makes the age of consent for heterosexuals and homosexuals equal in law at 16 years of age. Equalizing the age of consent for both heterosexuals and homosexuals ensures that the Territory is no longer in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights in that regard.

45. According to the "Human Rights and Democracy: The 2011 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report" issued in 2012, the protection and promotion of human rights in each territory is primarily the responsibility of the territorial government while the United Kingdom Government is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the territories fulfil their obligations arising from international human rights treaties that have been extended to them.

V. Environment

46. The Territory's Department of Environment and Coastal Resources is charged with the conservation, the protection and the management of the natural resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands, including the wetlands on Providenciales. According to the administering Power, while Providenciales is heavily developed, many of the other islands in the archipelago remain largely ecologically intact.

47. In 2012, the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the regional conference for the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, at which planning for sustainable fisheries and disaster risk management were discussed along with climate change issues.

VI. Relations with international organizations and partners

48. The Turks and Caicos Islands has associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, including in the Commission's Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

49. The Turks and Caicos Islands is an associate member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In February 2013, CARICOM noted with grave concern that, although the elections of November 2012 had led to the restoration of representative government, the overall state of political affairs remained less than desirable and the restoration of true democracy was still a long way off. The 2011 Constitution, in the view of CARICOM, was conceived in London and thrust upon the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands when they were without representation. It was seen as a mere by-law for the continuance of direct rule under the pretext of representative democracy. Further, of additional concern were the challenges emanating from the workings of the justice system in relation to the criminal investigations that followed the commission of enquiry.

50. The Territory is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank and the International Criminal Police Organization, as well as of the Caribbean Financial Task Force, which was set up to combat money-laundering in the Caribbean Basin. Further, the Turks and Caicos Islands is a member of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, and an associate member of the Association of Caribbean States. According to the United Kingdom, closer links were being sought with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and with neighbouring Bahamas.

51. The Turks and Caicos Islands is associated with the European Union through the provisions of Part IV of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the detailed rules and procedures set out in the Overseas Association Decision of 27 November 2001 (2001/822/EC). The Territory anticipates receipt of the ninth European Development Fund allocation of €5 million to the Territory during financial year 2012/13. Also, preparation is being made to facilitate access to the tenth European Development Fund allocation of €12 million, scheduled during 2013/14.

52. In December 2012, the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council also reached agreement between the United Kingdom and the Territories present at the meeting, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, to work together inter alia to further develop links with the United Nations and its agencies and regional partners particularly in the Caribbean, and expressed the belief that the Special Committee should delist Territories whose wish it was to do so (https://fco-stage.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/uk-ot-communique.pdf).

VII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

53. Information on political and constitutional developments regarding the Turks and Caicos Islands is contained in section I above.

B. Position of the administering Power

54. On 11 October 2012, the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. According to the summary record of the meeting (A/C.4/67/SR.5), the representative stated,

inter alia, that the British Government maintained its long-standing position on independence for the Territories. Any decision to sever the constitutional link between the United Kingdom and a Territory should be taken on the basis of the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the people of the Territory. Where independence was an option and it was the clear and constitutionally expressed wish of the people to pursue independence, the United Kingdom Government would meet its obligations to help the Territory to achieve it.

55. Further, the representative referred to the White Paper that the United Kingdom Government had published in June 2012, confirming the Government's commitment to maintaining the overall relationship between the United Kingdom and the Territories. In the introduction, the Government expressed the belief that the fundamental structure of the constitutional relationships was the right one: powers were devolved to the elected governments of the Territories to the maximum extent possible consistent with the United Kingdom retaining powers necessary to discharge its sovereign responsibilities, including to ensure that constitutional arrangements work effectively to promote the best interests of the Territories and of the United Kingdom. The Government recognized that it was important to continue to reflect on the constitutional relationship, and would ensure that a dialogue on these issues was sustained with all those Territories that wished to engage.

56. The representative went on to say that the 2012 White Paper had made it clear that the United Kingdom Government's fundamental responsibility and objective was to ensure the security and good governance of the Territories and their peoples. This responsibility flowed from international law including the Charter of the United Nations. But being an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom also entailed responsibilities. The United Kingdom Government expected territorial Governments to meet the same high standards as it did in maintaining the rule of law, respect for human rights and integrity in public life, delivering efficient public services, and building strong and successful communities. The United Kingdom Government would take firm and resolute action wherever there was evidence of corruption or maladministration in a Territory. The representative concluded that the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories continued to be a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine whether it wished to stay linked to the United Kingdom or not. For as long as the United Kingdom Overseas Territories wished to retain the link to the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom Government would remain committed to their future development and continued security.

C. Action by the General Assembly

57. On 18 December 2012, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 67/132 based on the report of the Special Committee (A/67/23) and the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. In section X of resolution 67/132 B, concerning the Turks and Caicos Islands:

The General Assembly,

...

1. *Notes with grave concern* the ongoing situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good

governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution, and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the restoration of democratically elected territorial Government as a matter of urgency;

3. *Also notes* the extensive public consultations undertaken by the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Adviser and the continuing debate on constitutional and electoral reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a Constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of the people of the Territory, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory.